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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/813,493	03/30/2004	L. Reg Funk	64,617-013	4900	
7590	02/09/2006		EXAMINER WATSON, ROBERT C		
Adam B. Strauss DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC Suite 300 39577 Woodward Avenue Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304			ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
			3723		
DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006					

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/813.493

Applicant(s)	
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FUNK ET AL.

Examiner

Robert C. Watson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 58-75 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 61,64 and 71-75 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 58-60,62,63 and 65-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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The terminal disclaimer was approved and entered.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 58-60, 62, 65-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cavanaugh.

Cavanaugh shows a vehicle wheel positioning restraint at Figures 3 and 4. Element 14 is the positioning restraint with engaging pockets on a lower surface and a curvilinear ramp shaped obstruction on the upper surface at an end thereof. The edge portion on the lower surface below the obstruction may be termed a heel. The positioning restraint 14 is removably received on a first planar body 18 having projections on the upper surface. It should be noted that applicant's claim is directed to only the positioning restraint and that the first planar body is not being claimed but is merely recited as a matter of possible intended use. As such, the references to the first planar body have no patentable significance. In any case, Cavanaugh does show the combination of the first planar body and the removable vehicle wheel positioning restraint.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 58-60, 62-63, and 65-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blatz (5,328,154) in view of Cavanaugh.

Blatz teaches the use of plural stackable planar bodies having projections on the upper surface and pockets on the lower surface for stacking the planar bodies in a manner to support and level a vehicle. The upper planar body lacks a removable vehicle wheel positional restraint.

Cavanaugh teaches the use of Cavanaugh shows a vehicle wheel positioning restraint at Figures 3 and 4. Element 14 is the positioning restraint with engaging pockets on a lower surface and a curvilinear ramp shaped obstruction on the upper surface at an end thereof. The edge portion on the lower surface below the obstruction may be termed a heel. The positioning restraint 14 is removably received on a first planar body 18 having projections on the upper surface such that the positioning restraint is stacked on the first planar body.

To stack a vehicle positioning restraint such as vehicle wheel positioning restraint 14 of Cavanaugh on the Blatz upper surface would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the disclosure of Cavanaugh. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to prevent the vehicle from overrunning the stacked wheel support when it is driven on the stacked wheel support. To shape the pockets on the lower surface of the positioning restraint to match the projections on the upper surface of the first planar member is considered to be an obvious extension of the broad teachings of Cavanaugh; ie., for the elements to be removably stacked the shape of the projections and pockets must match. The

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chosen shape of the projections and pockets is no more than an obvious matter of design choice absent a showing of criticality for this feature.

Claims 61, 64, and 71-75 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9/29/05.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert C. Watson whose telephone number is 571 272-4498. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs. , 5:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail III can be reached on 571 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


ROBERT C. WATSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

rcw